

REMARKS

Claims 5-7 and 9-30 are pending in this application. Claims 5 and 7 have been amended. Claims 1-3 and 8 have been canceled by this Amendment. Claim 4 was previously canceled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

In the Office Action claims 1-3 and 8 were rejected. Claims 9-30 were allowed, and claims 5-7 were identified as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In order to expedite prosecution of this application, claims 1-3 and 8 have been cancelled and claims 5 and 7 rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments remove all outstanding rejections and place the application in immediate condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and solicit early allowance with claims 5-7 and 9-30.

Applicants hereby petition for a one-month extension of time and any additional extension of time which may be necessary to have this Amendment considered. Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to debit our Account No. 04-1073 (under Order No. I9000.0045/P045) for any fees deemed necessary for that purpose.

Dated: February 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By

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